

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 4, 1897

## PRESIDENT WM. M'KINLEY'S ADDRESS

Delivered at the Capitol Before  
an Immense Crowd.He Advises Especial Attention to the Re-enact-  
ment of the Reciprocity Law of 1890.  
The Single Gold Standard.

Fellow-citizens: In obedience to the will of the people and in their presence by the authority vested in me by this oath I assume the arduous and responsible duties of President of the United States, relying on the support of my countrymen and invoking the guidance of Almighty God. Our faith teaches that there is no safer reliance than upon the God of our fathers, who has so singularly favored the American people in every national trial and who will not forsake us so long as we obey His commandments and walk humbly in His footsteps.

The responsibilities of the high trust to which I have been called—always of grave importance—are augmented by the prevailing business conditions, entailing idleness upon willing labor and loss to useful enterprise. The country is suffering from industrial disturbances, from which speedy relief must be had. Our financial system needs some revision; our money is all good now, but its value must not further be threatened. It should all be put upon an enduring basis, not subject to easy attack, nor its stability to doubt or dispute.

Our currency should continue under the supervision of the government. The several forms of our paper money offer, in my judgment, a constant embarrassment to the government and a safe balance in the Treasury. Therefore I believe it necessary to devise a system, which, without diminishing the circulating medium, or offering a premium for its contraction, will present a remedy for those arrangements, which, temporary in their nature, might well in the years of our prosperity have been displaced by wiser provisions.

With adequate revenue secured, but not until then, we can enter upon such changes in our fiscal laws as will, while insuring safety and volume to our money, no longer impose upon the government the necessity of maintaining so large a gold reserve, with its attendant and inevitable temptations to speculation. Most of our financial laws are the outgrowth of experience and trial, and should not be amended without investigation and demonstration of the wisdom of the proposed changes. We must be both "sure we are right," and "make haste slowly."

If, therefore, Congress in its wisdom should deem it expedient to create a commission to take under early consideration the revision of our coinage, banking and currency laws, and give them that exhaustive, careful and dispassionate examination that their importance demands, I shall cordially concur in such action. If such power is vested in the President, it is my purpose to appoint a commission of prominent, well-informed citizens of different parties, who will command public confidence, both on account of their ability and special fitness for the work.

Business experience and public training may thus be combined, and the patriotic zeal of the friends of the country be so directed that such a report will be made as to receive the support of all parties, and our finances cease to be the subject of mere partisan contention. The experiments, at all events, worth trial, and, in my opinion, it can but prove beneficial to the entire country.

The question of international limitations will have early and earnest attention. It will be my constant endeavor to secure it by co-operation with the other great commercial powers of the world. Until that condition is realized when the party between our gold and silver money springs from and is supported by the relative value of the two metals, the value of the silver already coined, and of that which may hereafter be coined, must be kept constantly at par with gold by every resource at our command. The credit of the government, the integrity of its currency and the inviolability of its obligations must be preserved. This was the commanding verdict of the people, and it will not be unheeded.

Economy is demanded in every branch of the government at all times, but especially in periods like the present, of depression in business and distress among the people. The severest economy must be observed in all public expenditures, and extravagance stopped wherever it is found, and prevented wherever in the future it may be developed. If the revenues are to remain as now, the only relief that can come must be from decreased expenditures. But the present must not become the permanent condition of the government. It has been our uniform practice to retrench, not increase, our outstanding obligations, and this policy must again be resumed and vigorously enforced.

Our revenues should always be large enough to meet with ease and promptness, not only our current needs, and the principal and interest of the public debt, but to make proper and liberal provision for that most deserving body of public creditors, the soldiers and sail-

ors and the widows and orphans who are the pensioners of the United States.

The government should not be permitted to run behind or increase its debt in times like the present. Suitably provided against this is the mandate of duty; the certain and easy remedy for most of our financial difficulties. A deficiency is inevitable so long as the expenditures of the government exceed its receipts. It can only be met by loans or an increased revenue. While a large annual surplus of revenue may invite waste and extravagance, inadequate revenue creates distrust and undermines public and private credit. Neither should be encouraged.

Between more loans and more revenues, there ought to be but one opinion. We should have more revenue, and that without delay, hindrance, or postponement. A surplus in the Treasury, created by loans, is not a permanent or safe reliance. It will suffice while it lasts, but it cannot last long while the outlays of the government are greater than its receipts, as has been the case during the past two years. Nor must it be forgotten that however much such loans may temporarily relieve the situation, the government is still indebted for the amount of the surplus thus accrued, which it must ultimately pay, while its ability to pay is not strengthened, but weakened, by a continued deficit.

Loans are imperative in great emergencies to preserve the government or its credit, but a failure to supply needed revenue in time of peace for the maintenance of either has no justification. The least way for the government to maintain its credit is to pay as it goes—not by resorting to loans, but by keeping out of debt—through an adequate income secured by a system of taxation, external or internal, or both.

It is the settled policy of the government, pursued from the beginning and practiced by all parties and administrations, to raise the bulk of our revenue from taxes upon foreign productions entering the United States for sale and consumption; and avoiding for the most part, every form of direct taxation, except in time of war. The country is clearly opposed to any needless additions to the subjects of internal taxation, and is committed by its latest popular utterance to the system of tariff taxation.

There can be no misunderstanding, either, about the principle upon which this tariff taxation shall be levied. Nothing has ever been plainer at a general election than that the controlling principle in the raising of revenue from duties on imports, is zeal for American interests and American labor. The people have declared that such legislation should be had as will give ample protection and encouragement to the industries and the development of our country.

It is, therefore, earnestly hoped and expected that Congress will, at the earliest practicable moment, enact revenue legislation that shall be fair, reasonable, conservative and just, and which, while supplying sufficient revenue for public purposes, will still be signally beneficial and helpful to every section and every enterprise of the people. To this policy we are all, of whatever party, firmly bound by the voice of the people—a power vastly more potent than the expression of any political platform.

The paramount duty of Congress is to stop deficiencies by the restoration of that protective legislation which has always been the firmest prop of the Treasury. The passage of such a law or laws would strengthen the credit of the government, both at home and abroad, and go far towards stopping the drain upon the gold reserve held for the redemption of our currency, which has been heavy and well-nigh constant for several years.

In the revision of the tariff special attention should be given to the re-enactment and extension of the reciprocity principle of the law of 1890, under which so great a stimulus was given to our foreign trade in new and advantageous markets, for our surplus agricultural and manufactured products. The brief trial given this legislation amply justifies a further experiment and additional discretionary power in the making of commercial treaties, the end in view always to be the opening up of new markets for the products of our country, by granting concessions to the products of other lands that we need and cannot produce ourselves, and which do not involve any loss of labor to our own people, but tend to increase their employment.

The depression for the past four years has fallen with especial severity upon the great body of toilers of the country, and upon none more than the holders of small farms. Agriculture has languished and labor suffered. The revival of manufacturing will be a relief to both. No portion of our population is more devoted to the institutions of free government, nor more loyal to its support, while none bears more cheerfully its full share in the maintenance of the government or is better entitled to its wise and liberal care and protection. Legislation helpful to producers is bene-

ficial to all. The depressed condition of industry on the farm and in the mine and factory has lessened the ability of the people to meet the demands upon them, and they rightfully expect that not only a system of revenue shall be established with the least burden, but that every means will be taken to decrease, rather than increase, our public expenditures. Business conditions are not the most promising. It will take time to restore the prosperity of former years. If we cannot promptly attain it, we can resolutely turn our faces in that direction, and aid its return by friendly legislation. However troublesome the situation may appear, Congress will, I am sure, be found lacking in disposition or ability to relieve it, as far as legislation can do so. The restoration of confidence and the revival of business, which men of all parties so much desire, depend more largely upon the prompt, energetic and intelligent action of Congress than upon any other single agency affecting the situation.

It is inspiring, too, to remember that no great emergency in the one hundred and eight years of our eventful national life, has ever arisen, that has not been met with wisdom and courage by the American people, with fidelity to their best interests and highest destiny, and to honor to the American name. These years of glorious history have exalted mankind and advanced the cause of freedom throughout the world, and immeasurably strengthened the precious free institutions which we enjoy. The people love and will sustain these institutions.

The great essential to our happiness and prosperity is that we adhere to the principles upon which the government was established and insist upon their faithful observance. Equality of rights must prevail and our laws be equal and every where respected and obeyed. We may have failed in the discharge of our full duty as citizens of the great republic, but it is consoling and encouraging to realize that free speech, a free press, free thought, free schools, the free and unobstructed right of religious liberty and worship, and free and fair elections are dearer and more universally enjoyed today than ever before.

These guarantees must be sacredly preserved and wisely strengthened. The constituted authorities must be cheerfully and vigorously upheld. Lynchings must not be tolerated in a great and civilized country like the United States; courts, not mobs, must execute the penalties of the law. The preservation of public order, the right of discussion, the integrity of courts and the orderly administration of justice must continue forever the rock of safety upon which our government securely rests.

One of the lessons taught by the late election, which all can rejoice in, is that the citizens of the United States are, both in law and in fact, law-abiding people, not easily swayed from the path of patriotism and honor. This is in entire accord with the genius of our institutions, and but emphasizes the advantages of inculcating even a greater love for law and order in the future. Immunity should be granted to none who violate the laws, whether individuals, corporations or communities, and as the Constitution imposes upon the President the duty of both its own execution and of the statutes enacted in pursuance of its provisions, I shall endeavor carefully to carry them into effect.

The declaration of the party now restored to power has been in the past that of "opposition to all combinations of capital or organized in trusts, or elsewhere, to control arbitrarily the condition of trade among our citizens," and it has supported "such legislation as will prevent the execution of all schemes to oppress the people by undue

charges on their supplies or by unjust rates for the transportation of their products to market. This purpose will be steadily pursued, both by the enforcement of the laws now in existence and the recommendation and support of such new statutes as may be necessary to carry it into effect.

Our naturalization and immigration laws should be further improved to the constant promotion of a shift, a better and a higher citizenship. A grave peril to the republic would be a citizenship (to ignore from the land if we shall attain that high destiny as the foremost of the enlightened nations of the world, which, under Providence, we ought to achieve.

Reforms in the civil service must go on. But the changes should be real and genuine, not perfunctory, or prompted by a zeal in behalf of any party, simply because it happens to be in power. As a member of Congress, I voted and spoke in favor of the present law, and I shall attempt its enforcement in the spirit in which it was enacted. The purpose in view was to secure the most efficient service of the best men who would accept appointment under the government, retaining faithful and devoted public servants in office, but shielding none, under the authority of any rule or custom, who are inefficient, incompetent or unworthy. The best interests of the country demand this, and the people heartily approve the law wherever and whenever it has been thus administered.

Congress should give prompt attention to the restoration of our American merchant marine, once the pride of the seas in all the great ocean highways of commerce. To my mind, few more important subjects so imperatively demand its intelligent consideration. The United States has progressed with marvelous rapidity in every field of enterprise and endeavor, until we have become foremost in nearly all the great lines of inland trade, commerce, and industry. Yet, while this is true, our American merchant marine has been steadily declining, until it is now lower, both in the percentage of tonnage and the number of vessels employed, than it was prior to the civil war.

Commendable progress has been made of late years in the rebuilding of the American navy, but we must supplement these efforts by providing as a proper complement for our merchant marine, a proper complement for our own carrying trade to foreign countries. The question is one that appeals both to our business necessities and the patriotic aspirations of a great people.

It has been the policy of the United States since the foundation of the government to cultivate relations of peace and amity with all the nations of the world, and this accords with my conception of our duty now. We have cherished the policy of non-interference with the affairs of foreign governments, wisely inaugurated by Washington, keeping ourselves free from entanglement, either as allies or foes, content to leave undisturbed with them the settlement of their own domestic concerns.

It will be our aim to pursue a firm and dignified foreign policy, which shall be just, impartial, ever watchful of our national honor and always insisting upon the enforcement of the lawful rights of American citizens everywhere. Our actions now will be free from mere partisan consideration, but if the question of tariff revision was postponed until the regular

session of Congress. We are nearly two years from a Congressional election, and politics cannot so greatly distract us as if such contest was immediately pending. We can approach the problem calmly and patriotically, without fearing its effect upon an early election.

Our fellow-citizens who may disagree with us upon the character of the legislation prefer to have the question settled now, even against their preconceived views—and, perhaps, settled so reasonably, as I trust and believe it will be, as to insure great permanence—than to have further uncertainty, menacing the vast and varied business interests of the United States.

Again, whatever action Congress may take will be given a fair opportunity for trial before the people are called to pass judgment upon it, and this I consider a great essential to the right and lasting settlement of the question. In view of these considerations I shall deem it my duty as President to convene Congress in extraordinary session on Monday, the 14th day of March, 1897.

In conclusion, I congratulate the country upon the fraternal spirit of the people and the manifestations of goodwill everywhere so apparent. The recent election not only most fortunately demonstrated the obliteration of sectional or geographical lines, but to some extent also the prejudices which for years have distracted our councils and marred our true greatness as a nation.

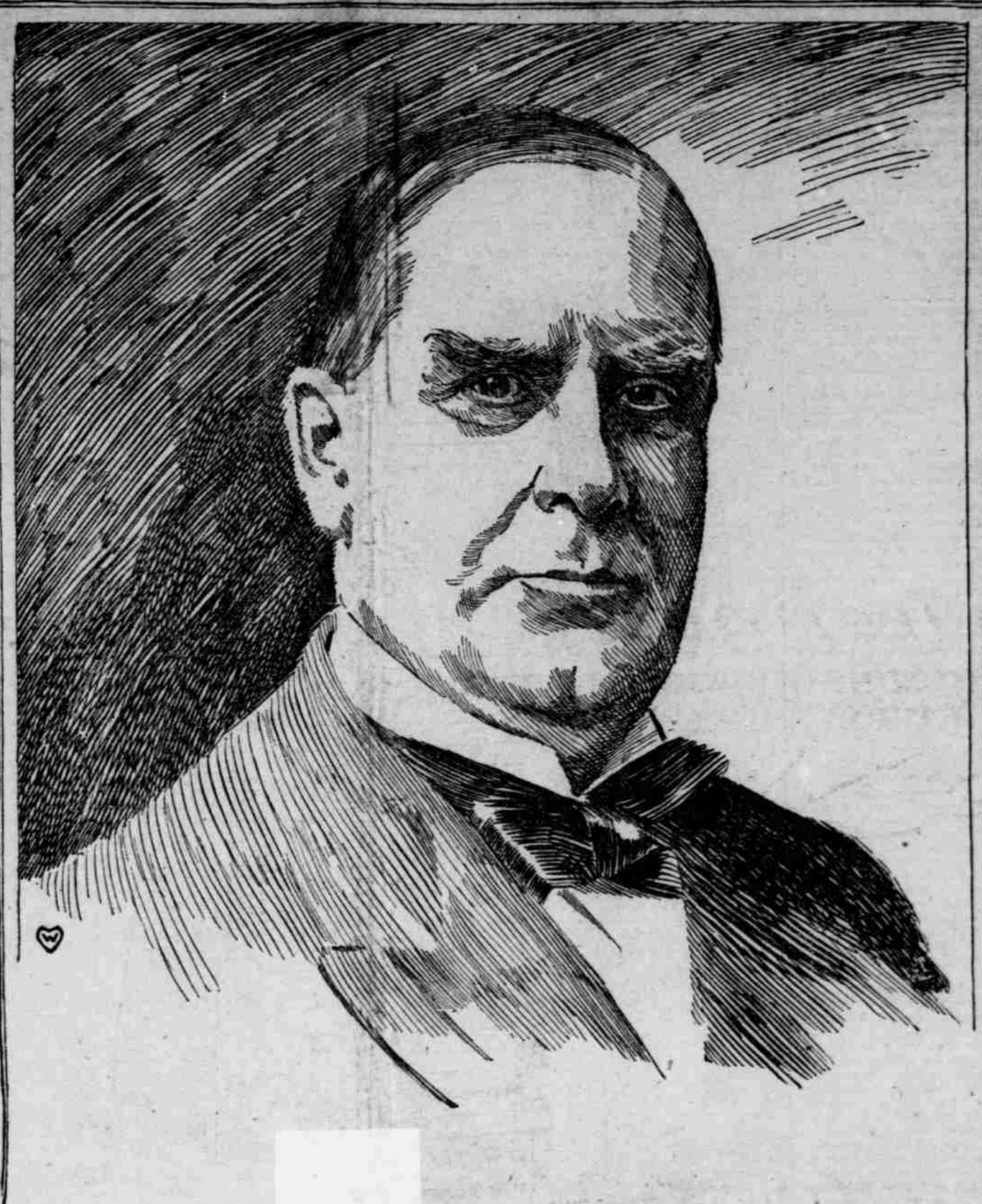
The triumph of the people, whose verdict is carried into effect today, is not the triumph of one section, nor wholly of one party, but of all sections and all the people. The North and South no longer divide on the old lines, but upon principles and policies; and in this fact surely every citizen of the country can find cause for true felicitation. Let us rejoice in and cultivate this spirit; it is ennobling and will be both a gain and blessing to our beloved country.

It will be my constant aim to do nothing, and permit nothing to be done, that will arrest or disturb this growing sentiment of unity and co-operation, this revival of esteem and affiliation which now animates so many thousands in both the old antagonistic sections, but I shall cheerfully do everything possible to promote and increase it.

Let me again repeat the words of the oath administered by the chief justice, which, in their respective spheres, so far as applicable, I would have all my countrymen observe: "I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." This is the obligation I have reverently taken before the Lord Most High. To keep it will be my single purpose; my constant prayer—and I shall confidently rely upon the forbearance and assistance of all the people in the discharge of my solemn responsibilities.

There could be no better time to put the government upon a sound financial and economic basis than now. The people have only recently voted that this should be done, and nothing is more binding upon the agents of their will than the obligation of immediate action. It has always seemed to me that the postponement of the meeting of Congress until more than a year after it has been chosen deprived Congress too often of the inspiration of the popular will, and the country of the corresponding benefits.

It is evident, therefore, that to postpone action in the presence of so great a necessity would be unwise on the part of the executive, because unjust to the interests of the people. Our actions now will be free from mere partisan consideration, but if the question of tariff revision was postponed until the regular



NEW PRESIDENT.

## CUBAN REBELS VERY ACTIVE

They Have Gained Several Important Victories Lately.

## LARGE BODY CROSSED TROCHA.

Texan Cowboys' Expedition Safely Landed in Pinar del Rio—Perfect Organization of the Insurgents in That Province—Weyler Daily Expected in Havana.

Havana, March 4.—Advice received here show that the rebels have been displaying great activity, and in several encounters sustained with the Spanish troops have obtained signal victories. Incomplete details received from Manzanillo state that Gen. Garcia, with 3,000 men and three pieces of artillery, met Gen. Rey, with 1,300 men and three pieces of artillery, at Costamela. A fierce fight resulted. Garcia, with his superior forces and better position, easily routed the Spaniards, inflicting heavy losses, estimated at 600, if not over.

Another report comes from Matanzas of a severe engagement on the 24th of February. Cayo Sillas, Mayra Rodriguez and Carrillo met Gen. Molina's forces and obtained a complete victory. Details are lacking, but it is only known that seventy-four wounded Spaniards were brought into Cuyetlan on stretchers. Many dead were left on the field.

Col. Gonzalez, commanding the rebel forces in Remedios district, routed the fort protecting the estate of Boleros. He fired cannon shots at the garrison. The civil guards fled and abandoned their arms and munitions, taking refuge in the building of the estate. Gen. Alejandro Rodriguez, now commanding the rebels in Havana province, attacked two cavalry squadrons belonging to the Pinar regiment near Pico de los Remedios. He made a vigorous charge, but the Spaniards escaped. It is positively known that twenty-two were killed and the rest were left in the field.

Many rumors are circulating regarding Gomez's whereabouts. Some state that he is still in Santa Clara province, arranging the organization of rebel forces. Others say that he has returned to Puerto Principe, in consequence of President Cienfuegos' death, to settle any difficulties that may arise on that account in state affairs. No doubt exists that 6,000 insurgents crossed near Lajas two weeks ago, marching west. They succeeded in entering Matanzas province, and on its borders sustained the encounter referred to above. This body of men, all cavalry, were commanded by Maj. Rodriguez, recently appointed in command of the three western provinces, taking Gen. Maceo's place.

Gen. Carrillo has assumed command of the forces in Matanzas province. It is rumored that the cowboys' expedition, which left Dallas, Tex., landed in Pinar del Rio safely.

Gonzalez Garcia, a prominent sugar planter, commissioned by Juan Reiz, the ex-rebel leader of the last war, to explore and report on the condition of the rebels in Pinar del Rio, and if they are willing to accept Canovas' reforms, says that he was held a prisoner and then cut-throated by Rivera, but after he was released, Gen. Rivera would hear nothing of the reforms, not even to hear them mentioned. Garcia describes the organization of the rebels in that province as perfect.

Gen. Rivera has 3,000 men, well armed, thoroughly instructed and equipped, distributed in groups of 100 men or more throughout the province. He personally commands 800 men. His ranks are constantly increasing from desertions from the Spanish army and the terror-stricken peasants, who are seeking his protection. Since Weyler retired the bulk of the Spanish forces, Rivera has been able to move with more freedom, and he is now reorganizing the province.

Many rumors are floating about as to Weyler's resignation on account of Spain's defeat. Some discredit the story, as they say no general can resign in front of an enemy, or less criticize the action of his queen. The current belief is that he has been recalled in obedience to the clamor of Spanish people, who are angry at his conduct in Cuba. Weyler is daily expected at Havana. The transport vessel Legazpi has left for Calicut to bring him to Havana. Some indication of his return is shown by the fact that he has left Sancti Spiritus and returned to Pinar del Rio. He made a new distribution of the Spanish forces in that section, in view of the fact that Gomez has returned to Puerto Principe, if report is true.

## FUND FOR THE SPECIALS.

Requisition on the Treasury for Eight Thousand Dollars.

The first measure on the part of the District Commissioners subsequent to the installation of Capt. Kack as Engineer Commissioner was a requisition on the Treasury Department yesterday for \$8,200 in favor of John W. Jones, George Truesdell and Capt. William M. Buck, Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

This requisition is pursuant to the act of Congress, dated February 6, 1897, appropriating the foregoing sum for the maintenance of public order in the District during inaugural week.

## TWO DIVORCES GRANTED.

Florence Horness and Lulu O. Griffith Released From Bondage.

Judge Cox signed decrees in two divorce suits yesterday. Florence Horness was given a divorce from Louis Horness and authorized to resume her maiden name, Florence Hill. The grounds of the action were withheld from publication.

Lulu O. Griffith was divorced from Henry C. Griffith and allowed to take her maiden name of Lulu O. Kelly. In her application for the separation she accused her husband of intemperance and cruelty. On one occasion she stabbed her with a knife, and at another time drew a revolver on her, she said.

## ALL ALONG THE POTOMAC.

THE GREAT FALLS ELECTRIC LINE, Which Starts From Thirty-sixth Street, Georgetown.

(The blue cable and the Fastest electric cars going west make direct connection.) Takes visitors along in full view of the PICTURED PALM TREES OF THE POTOMAC.

## THE LITTLE FALLS.

To the Wonderful CATHY JOHN BRIDGE. The largest stone arch in the world. Built by the United States Government. FARE, ONLY 10 CENTS EACH WAY. From Georgetown to Catin John.

session of Congress. We are nearly two years from a Congressional election, and politics cannot so greatly distract us as if such contest was immediately pending. We can approach the problem calmly and patriotically, without fearing its effect upon an early election.

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